

The University of Toronto

INTERMEDIATE GERMAN I

Synchronous Online Course

GER200Y1Y, LEC5101 / 2021 Summer

Classes meet on U of T's Zoom Platform, 6pm-8pm EST on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

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OH: Mon. Tue., Wed., or Thru. by appointment

DESCRIPTION AND COURSE GOALS



This **synchronous** online intermediate German language course builds on skills acquired in beginner's German. It is designed to review and further develop students' linguistic and cultural competencies. Students will have a chance to practice and enhance their German speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills by engaging with a variety of texts and media. The themes in the textbook will provide a springboard for various online activities, assignments, and vocabulary building. Students will practice grammatical structures and acquire vocabulary that will allow them to express opinions, agreements, and disagreements in communicative situations encountered in work, school, and travel. By learning about German, Austrian, and Swiss cities featured in the textbook, students will get to know regional differences in German-speaking countries. Regular online meetings on Zoom will be devoted mostly to communicative and interactive exercises and group work. In order to participate successfully in these activities, independent work and preparation are paramount.

MATERIALS

The textbook – Barske, Tobias, et al. *Denk mal! Deutsch ohne Grenzen*. 3rd Edition. Boston: Vista Higher Learning, 2020 – is available to purchase as an e-book **online** OR you can also order the textbook in a hard copy at the **University of Toronto Book Store** (<https://uoftbookstore.com>). Note that a hard copy of the textbook is only optional and not required in order to participate in the course.

Herzlich Willkommen und viel Erfolg!

REQUIREMENTS

4 Tests (2 per term)	20%
4 Essays (2 per term)	25%
Oral Exam (term 1) / Online Presentation (term 2)	25%
Homework	10%
Preparation, and Discussion Board Participation, Quizzes	10%
Attendance	10%

In order to be able to fully participate in this course and the live Zoom meetings, students will need a stable internet connection, a camera and a microphone. **Turning your camera on will be required, particularly during presentations, group discussions and on-line assessments.**

LIVE RECORDINGS OF ONLINE SESSIONS

Please note that the online sessions of this course will be recorded and uploaded on Quercus for reference. These live recordings will be available for a short period only. They are intended to be used as a student study aid and are not a substitute for regular attendance unless there are special circumstances (i.e. you are out of the country and in a different time zone) and you have an explicit permission from the course instructor.

Video recordings will mostly capture the instructor and the shared screen. However, your voice and video, may be captured as well. If you have any concerns about being recorded, please speak to your instructor.

Live recordings of online sessions **may not be reproduced or posted or shared** anywhere other than the official course Quercus site and should only be used by students currently registered in the course. Because live recordings of online sessions will be provided for all lectures, students may not create additional audio or video recordings without written permission from the instructor. Permission for such recordings will not be withheld for students with accommodation needs.

PRIVACY CONSIDERATIONS

Students may **not** record any portion of a lecture without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor. Provostial guidelines on the Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology, available at <https://www.provost.utoronto.ca/planning-policy/information-communication-technology-appropriate-use/>, state that:

The unauthorized use of any form of device to audiotape, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduce lectures, course notes or teaching materials provided by instructors is covered by the Canadian Copyright Act and is prohibited. Students must obtain prior written consent to such recording. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent must not be unreasonably withheld.

This is a preliminary copy of the syllabus. Contents may still be subject to change.

Students **may not create audio recordings** of classes with the exception of those students requiring an accommodation for a disability, who should speak to the instructor prior to beginning to record lectures. Students creating unauthorized audio recording of lectures violate an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

Students **may not take screenshots** of class chats, class discussion board entries or any other course content without the prior and explicit permission of the course instructor. Taking screenshots of class chats, discussion board entries or other class content and distributing them via the Internet using social media such as Facebook, peer-to-peer file sharing such as One Drive or Dropbox, or other distribution channels may be considered a **violation of privacy** and of intellectual property rights. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct. In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, persons who have special needs will be accommodated.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

This is a synchronous online language course that meets on U of T's Zoom platform Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6PM to 8PM. The Department allows each student to miss maximum two on-line meetings (i.e. four hours) per term. For each subsequent unexcused absence, a student will incur a 10% penalty off the class participation and attendance grade of the course. Absenteeism inherently has indirect bearing upon all other aspects of the grade weighting. Test material and homework assignments are based on tasks, activities and information presented during the online meetings.

Students will be further required to regularly contribute to class content (i.e. song / poem of the week) and complete online vocabulary quizzes, discussion board questions and other online tasks. Contributions and vocabulary quizzes each account for 25% of your attendance & participation grade.

HOMEWORK

You can expect to spend approx. 2-3 hours on homework every week. **You will be assigned homework from the textbook, on Quercus and in class.** The homework exercises will provide you with ample opportunities to practice the materials covered. No late homework will be accepted without a legitimate excuse. **Advice: In order to have a meaningful learning experience, you should do the homework assignments on a daily basis, rather than all at once at the end of the week. It is important that you complete your homework regularly because the independent work you do will have a direct influence on your ability to actively participate in all other activities.**

TESTS

4 tests (2 each term) will be given, covering vocabulary, grammar and readings from the course. No make-up quizzes or tests are allowed unless the student has a legitimate excuse. A legitimate excuse is defined as one that has been validated in writing by a physician, surgeon, nurse practitioner, dentist, and clinical psychologist, or a person of authority, e.g. college registrar. If you should fall ill on the day of the test, please let the instructor know **before class**. A make-up test must be written no later than a week after the actual assessment date.

ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

Students will hold live on-line presentations at the end of each term. These oral assessments will be graded for thorough research and preparation, coherent, fluent and compelling presentation, accurate use of acquired grammar and vocabulary. Further details and exact times will be arranged with the course instructor.

ESSAYS

You will write four (4) written compositions altogether (2 in each term). The topic and length of the essay will be indicated by your course instructor. Each essay consists of a draft and a final version. In order to receive the full grade, you must turn in 2 versions of each essay. Your instructor will return the first version with corrective annotations. You will write the final version of your essay based on these corrections. This is a very important reflective exercise to develop your writing skills and to understand the source of your mistakes. The first version will count 60% and the second 40%. **To receive a complete score for each composition assignment, you must submit the marked-up draft with the final version.** The final version of your essay shall not include track changes nor the instructor's notes and comments. Late assignment submission will result in 5% grade reduction for each day past the deadline, for up to 5 days.

Having your essays proofread by someone else who is proficient in German can be considered **plagiarism**, as you are submitting someone else's work as your own. The use of translation software or online translation tools such as Google translate will not only be considered **cheating**, but you will miss a chance to reflect upon and improve your writing skills. The purpose of the composition is to show your ability to use the vocabulary and grammar learned in the course in accordance with your level of German.

MOBILE DEVICES

In order to minimize distractions during class time, we ask that phones or similar mobile devices be off during online meetings unless requested otherwise by the course instructor.

ACCESSIBILITY

The department is committed to ensuring that all students have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions. This course welcomes students with diverse learning styles and needs. If you have a consideration or a circumstance that requires specific accommodation for attending online course sessions, participating in group-work, or completing homework and assignments, we invite you to contact the course instructors and Accessibility Services (accessibility.services@utoronto.ca) as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Academic integrity is defined as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the

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instructor, using online translators, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction. Please visit <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm> for additional information on the code of behavior on academic matters.

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GRADING SCALE

Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F